

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1 – 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A dishwasher comprising:

a washing container;

a device for washing items retained in the washing container using rinsing liquid liquor;

a medium-retaining container for retaining therein a medium that is at least one of a vaporisable medium and a sublimable medium, whereby the medium retained in the medium-retaining container ~~can be~~ is subjected to at least one of an evaporation step and a sublimation step, whereby the medium is cooled; and

a sorber with reversibly dehydratable material, the sorber and the medium retaining container being communicated with one another such that gas exchange ~~can take~~ takes place therebetween, the reversibly dehydratable material acting to absorb vapor that has flowed from the medium-retaining container into the sorber, whereupon the reversibly dehydratable material transforms from a dehydrated state into a hydrated state and the reversibly dehydratable material being restorable from a hydrated state into a dehydrated state by the application of thermal energy to the reversibly dehydratable material, the sorber being operable, on the one hand, to directly dry items retained in the washing container and being operable, on the other hand, to provide the thermal energy

used for desorbing the sorber such that at least one of the rinsing liquor and the items located in the washing container are heated thereby.

12. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher according to claim 11, and further comprising an exchange pipe interconnecting the medium-retaining container and the sorber with one another such that gas exchange ~~can take~~ takes place therebetween, the exchange pipe having a valve for selectively permitting the flow of vapor through the exchange pipe.

13. (Previously Presented) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the medium-retaining container is communicated via an outlet with the washing container, the sorber is communicated with the washing container via an inlet, and further comprising a fan for guiding air from the washing container to the medium-retaining container, whereupon the air is thereby cooled upon contact with the cooled medium in the medium-retaining container, and for subsequently guiding the cooled air into contact with the reversibly dehydratable material in the sorber, whereupon the air is heated, and for thereafter guiding such heated air back into the washing container through the inlet.

14. (Previously Presented) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein first the medium-retaining container and then the sorber are arranged in the direction of flow of the air from the washing container to allow heat exchange between the flowing air and the medium in the medium-retaining container as well as the reversibly dehydratable material in the sorber.

15. (Previously Presented) The dishwasher according to claim 12, and further comprising an electric heating element located in the sorber for desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material.

16. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher according to claim 15, wherein, when the electric heating element is switched off and the valve is opened, the medium ~~can be~~ is vaporised or sublimed in the medium-retaining container and the medium-retaining container with medium ~~can be~~ is cooled by the latent heat of evaporation, the medium vapour is passed via the exchange pipe to the sorber and the medium vapour is absorbed by the reversible dehydratable material in the sorber whereby the sorber is heated with reversibly dehydratable material.

17. (Previously Presented) The dishwasher according to claim 15, wherein, when the electric heating element is switched on for desorbing the sorber, the sorber is heated and, when the valve is opened, the medium bound in the sorber is evaporated, the medium vapour released in the sorber is passed to the medium-retaining container by means of the exchange pipe and the medium vapour is condensed in the medium-retaining container whereby the medium-retaining container with medium is heated as a result of the latent heat of evaporation.

18. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher according to claim 16, wherein the medium-retaining container is communicated via an outlet with the washing container, the sorber is communicated with the washing container via an inlet, and the medium-retaining container and the sorber are communicated with one another by an air guiding pipe such that air ~~can be~~ is guided from the washing container to the medium-retaining container, whereupon the air is thereby cooled upon contact with the cooled medium in the medium-retaining container, the cooled air subsequently guided into contact with the reversibly dehydratable material in the sorber, whereupon the air is heated, and thereafter such heated air ~~can be~~ is guided back into the washing container through the inlet, and, during a "drying" partial program step, air from the washing container is passed through the air guiding pipe and back into the washing container, wherein the air at the medium-retaining container is cooled and the moisture contained in the air is thereby at least partly condensed and the air at the sorber is heated to increase the moisture absorption capacity of the air.

19. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher according to claim 17, wherein the medium-retaining container is communicated via an outlet with the washing container, the sorber is communicated with the washing container via an inlet, and the medium-retaining container and the sorber are communicated with one another by an air guiding pipe such that air ~~can be~~ is guided from the washing container to the medium-retaining container, whereupon the air is thereby cooled upon contact with the cooled medium in the medium-retaining container, the cooled air subsequently guided into contact with the reversibly

dehydratable material in the sorber, whereupon the air is heated, and thereafter such heated air can be is guided back into the washing container through the inlet, and, during a "drying" partial program step using rinsing liquid liquor to be heated, e.g. "clean" or "pre-rinse", air from the washing container is passed through the air guiding pipe and back into the washing container again where the air at the container is preferably heated and that at the sorber is heated.

20. (Previously Presented) The dishwasher according to claim 18 and further comprising means for flowing water formed at the medium-retaining container by condensation from the air flowing in the air guiding pipe into at least one of the washing container and a separate container.

21. (New) A dishwasher comprising:

- a washing container;

- a device for washing items retained in the washing container using rinsing liquor;

- a medium-retaining container for retaining therein a medium that is at least one of a vaporisable medium and a sublimable medium, whereby the medium retained in the medium-retaining container is subjected to at least one of an evaporation step and a sublimation step, whereby the medium is cooled; and

- a sorber with reversibly dehydratable material, the sorber and the medium retaining container being communicated with one another such that gas exchange takes place therebetween, the reversibly dehydratable material acting to absorb vapor that has

flowed from the medium-retaining container into the sorber, whereupon the reversibly dehydratable material transforms from a dehydrated state into a hydrated state and the reversibly dehydratable material being restorable from a hydrated state into a dehydrated state by the application of thermal energy to the reversibly dehydratable material, the sorber providing the thermal energy used for desorbing the sorber such that the rinsing liquor and the items located in the washing container are heated thereby.